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Items of Interest:

- **Rear Adm. (lower half)(selectee) Alton L. Stocks** is being assigned as assistant deputy chief, health care operations, M3HB, bureau of medicine and surgery, Washington, D.C. Stocks is currently serving as force surgeon, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Naples, Italy.
- DoD Identifies Navy Casualty. The Department of Defense announced July 26 the death of a Sailor who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. **Hospitalman Daniel S. Noble**, 21, of Whittier, Calif., died July 24, as a result of enemy action while conducting security operations in the Dilaya Province, Iraq. He was permanently assigned to 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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Uniformed Services University Begins Operations Bushmaster, Kerkesner

By Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class (AW) Paul DeLaughter,
National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. - The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences held Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner July 10-20 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

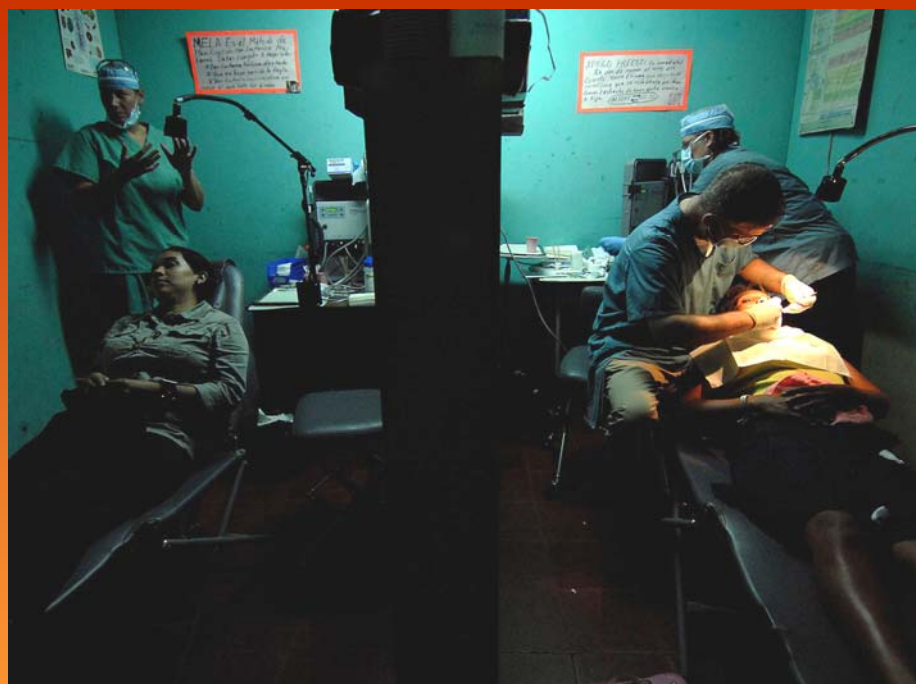
The exercises are hands-on courses designed to provide military medical students advanced training in field medical techniques while dealing with extreme "simulated" combat scenarios.

"This is the single most important thing that we do to prepare our graduates to take care of what are absolutely the most important pa-

tients that they can ever take care of," said Air Force Col. Charles Beadling, director of the Military and Emergency Medicine Department's Academic Division. "(The officers) are preparing to take care of the men and women who are putting their lives on the line sacrificing for (America). If we can teach the students to be better able to save the life (of a wounded service member) then it's worth every bit of blood, sweat and tears that we can put into it."

The Uniformed Services University is a four-year medical univer-

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CORINTO, Nicaragua – Capt. Joseph Rusz, a dental officer, examines a patient's teeth at the Jose Schendal Health Center July 19. Rusz is assigned to Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20). U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joan E. Kretschmer

Navy Nurse Corps to Exceed Recruiting Goals

By Christine A. Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

WASHINGTON – The Navy Nurse Corps (NC) is expecting to surpass their established recruiting goals for Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07) by September.

"The Navy Nurse Corps is increasingly becoming a top career option for nurses," said Cmdr. Ray Wilson, NC, Nurse Corps Programs Manager, Commander Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC), Millington, TN. "In the most recent years, we have seen a growing interest and desire from civilian nurses who want to serve their country and they are choosing to become members of the Navy Nurse Corps to fulfill that need."

NC recruitment goals for FY 07 are 69 for active duty through direct accession, 70 for Reservists, 75 for the nurse candidate program, and two for Reservists (active duty recalled).

"We are definitely going to surpass these goals. Currently, we are at 75 percent of our active through direct accession goal with 26 alternates signed up for next fiscal year, 30 percent attainment for Reservists with 70 nurses waiting in the wings to be commissioned with a 10 to 15 roll-over for next fiscal year," said Wilson. "In the Nurse Candidate Program, we have reached 71 percent of our goal and have started an alternate list for next fiscal year."

According to Wilson, nurses are choosing to become members of the NC team for a variety of reasons including a more challenging work environment, higher job satis-

faction and more opportunities for career advancement.

"There are a number of people are choosing to sign up and be commissioned as Navy nurses. We have seen an ever-growing increase of patriotism in our country. People feel the need to serve our country and help and support our war fighters, offering their skills and talents to Navy Medicine," he said. "Our Navy nurses have immediate respect for the great medical care they provide and because of officer rank as well. In the civilian sector, the respect for nurses and the good work that they do can be lacking. Benefits in military are great in comparison to the civilian market. We also offer opportunities for promotion, graduate education that the Navy will pay for, and opportunities to specialize. Another reason is that a lot of people want to leave their current employment situation and they want to shake up their career for the better, they want to travel, they want a challenge like no other challenge in the world, and they want their careers to have meaning and purpose – personal fulfillment. Also, the NC is very competitive with our civilian counterparts in terms of salary and we meet or exceed any bonuses nurses can receive in the civilian sector and we have a much better retirement system."

The NC has a variety of specialties. "We have 18-plus nursing specialties at work within Navy Medicine. Among these specialties are critical care nursing, advance prac-

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USS Peleliu Medical Team Serves Vietnam

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Matthew Jackson, USS Peleliu Public Affairs

DA NANG, Vietnam - More than 30 Pacific Partnership members provided medical care to approximately 200 Vietnamese patients of all different ages July 18 at An Hai Bac Ward Medical Center in Da Nang.

Sailors from USS Peleliu (LHA 5), embarked non-governmental organizations (NGOs), college students and foreign service members worked together to provide the medical care.

"This medical civil action program (MEDCAP) is focused on providing medical care to people who need it," said Lt. Ryan Pomicter. "We're seeing medical, dental, optometry and pediatric patients out there. Our primary focus is just helping the people."

Although resources were limited, the MEDCAP staff emphasized their hope to see as many patients as possible.

"We plan on seeing 200 registered patients today, but we expect at least 50 walk-ins, so between 250 and 300 patients today," Pomicter said.

The healthcare that patients receive goes far beyond a quick-fix. In addition to providing medicine, the care providers are able to offer advice that may bring about changes for the better of people's overall health.



U.S. Navy file photo.

"I think the services we provide will help people immensely because they are receiving a free check-up and advice along with their medication," said Pomicter.

The Vietnamese people have shown Peleliu personnel warmth and gratitude for every second of care given, thus strengthening the ties between Vietnam and the U.S.

"It's great to experience other cultures and see how they live," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/FMF) Katesha Payne. "I've gained a lot of gratitude and been rewarded by treating so many people who need to be cared for."

Navy Bug Doc: Central America Can Really 'Bite'

By Mass Communication Specialist
3rd Class Tyler Jones, USNS Comfort
Public Affairs

USNS COMFORT, At Sea -

When visiting Central America, one will find lush vegetation, exotic wildlife, welcoming people -- and thousands upon thousands of insects.

Each year, the diseases spread by insects kill more people in Central America than car accidents and murders combined.

In an effort to help people in the region combat this problem, the U.S. Naval hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) relies on Lt. Anthony Hanley, a Navy entomologist, assigned to the hospital's preventive medicine department during Comfort's four-month humanitarian-assistance deployment.

"As an entomologist, I'm basically a bug doctor," said Hanley. "In the Navy, entomologists work in three basic areas: research, support and training. With research, there are billets that focus on the diseases we're dealing with here in Central America, like malaria and dengue fever.

"In support roles, we provide expertise to all the installations worldwide, and we do program re-

views every three years. We look at their pest control methods, their procedures, and ways to improve the programs.

"We also do a lot of training, too. Navy entomologists help qualify people to use restricted-use pesticides by teaching them about the anatomy of insects, the chemistry of the products being used, and the methods of control," said Hanley.

While attached to Comfort, Hanley travels to host-nation sites as part of the ship's preventive medicine team and helps host nation medical professionals assess their vulnerability to insect-borne illness.

Hanley explained that oftentimes, helping reduce the threat of disease can be as simple as teaching local citizens about sanitation and overall cleanliness.

"We go in, and they show us how they do their inspections and where they do them," said Hanley. "Then, together, we come up with a comprehensive program for reducing mosquito breeding habitats. Each country is different: some are bare bones, and we have to build a program from the ground up. Others already have a program going, and we just have to piggy back on that and help them beef it up."

The concept of force multiplication, or teaching host nation personnel how to implement and pass on practices after Comfort is gone, has been a key program and is vital to the success of Comfort's mission, he added.

The diseases that Hanley and the preventive medicine team are looking for in Comfort's area of operation are prevalent and include malaria, leishmaniasis and dengue fever, according to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

In addition to helping partner nations, Hanley is also responsible for the protection of U.S. forces and non-governmental volunteers on the ground in each host nation.

"When people deploy to areas where these kinds of diseases are present, it's important to wear permethrin-treated uniforms, the DEET lotion that can be applied to skin, and a properly worn uniform with sleeves down," said Hanley. "That way, you keep the insects off your skin, and out of your uniform."

Hanley also stressed the importance of personnel practicing situational awareness, such as checking

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sity for the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Public Health Service. The curriculum at the university is unique to the military and the two operations are part of that military training.

"The (courses) have been established to give future military medical officers the knowledge, skills and attitude to perform their duties in extreme situations," Beadling said. "This will make them better leaders."

Operation Bushmaster, the more advanced of the two courses, is a practical final exam for medical students. The course allows students to practice the skills they have learned during their first three years of combat medical care instructions.

"When I went overseas in support of Operation Desert Shield, I brought a few publications with me. With those, I also brought my text book from the university's Military Contingency Medicine (program)," Beadling said. "I was the senior medical officer for a special operations command that was still under construction. I was required to set up and maintain several programs that had

not been addressed before. (If I had not attended the course) I would not have been able to do my job as efficiently as I did."

Beadling said people who elect to attend the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences want to defend their country and be a part of an operationally relevant mission for the military branch they choose to serve.

"A graduate from the Uniformed Services University is a significantly different commodity than that from a different source," Beadling said.

Operation Kerknesner is an exercise for first-year students that provides them a basic concept of their jobs on the front lines, said Air Force Lt. Col. Lisa Beck, director of the Military and Emergency Medicine Department's Academic Support Division.

"These training operations are what lay the foundation for what these young officers are going to need to know as doctors in the military," she said.

Beck said the training helps young doctors build confidence and it teaches them ways to become better leaders.

Hospital Corpsman Saves Lives During Combat Ops; Awarded Bronze Star

By Mass Communications Specialist
1st Class Eric Deatherage, Naval
Medical Center Portsmouth Public
Affairs Office

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER PORTSMOUTH, Va. – Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief (SW/AW) Stephen A. Murray received the Bronze Star July 18 for heroic life-saving actions in Afghanistan. Rear Adm. Thomas Cullison, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP), presented Murray the medal on the front steps of historic Building 1. The Bronze Star was submitted by Naval Forces Central Command's Vice Adm. Kevin J. Cosgriff.

Murray served as Senior Medic with the Combat Service Support Medical Company, Navy Embedded Training Team JULIET, in Herat, Afghanistan, from November 2005 to June 2006. He is credited with saving lives for two separate incidents, both involving insurgent attacks. After his convoy struck two IEDs in March 2006, Murray rendered medical attention to critically injured Afghan Soldiers and saved six lives. Later that month, Firebase Robinson was attacked by more than 200 heavily armed Taliban forces. With no regard for personal safety, Murray again rendered medical attention to two wounded U.S. Soldiers.

"This is a very appropriate award. He's a hero," said Cullison.

"That's just the kind of person he is," said Murray's wife, Nichole. "He would put himself on the line for just about anybody."

On the day Murray received his Bronze Star, there was a memorial service for three Sailors who were killed in Iraq. "I want to dedicate this (Bronze Star) to them, their families and their friends" said Murray.

Murray said that his actions are what any other corpsman would do in his situation and spoke about their role in today's military. "The job they do is thankless. It goes above and beyond. They are not only doing a deployment, they are under fire, consistently in a combat environment," said Murray.

"This epitomizes what military medicine does in our combat zones," said Cullison. "Army medics, Navy corpsmen...they are in the fight everyday and doing things just like Senior Chief Murray did to take care of patients and make sure they come home safe to their families."

The Bronze Star Medal is the fourth highest award for bravery, heroism or meritorious service. Murray's Bronze Star ribbon was distinguished with the "V" for valor, the ribbon device authorized for acts or service involving direct participation in combat operations.

Phil Murray, Senior Chief Murray's father, was at the cere-



NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER PORTSMOUTH - Rear Adm. Thomas Cullison, Commander Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, presents the Bronze Star to Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief SW/AW) Stephen Murray for his lifesaving actions in Afghanistan. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Eric Deatherage

mony to see his son. "I'm so proud of him and will always be proud of him."

Murray said he was just leading by example. "I'm not going to tell my corpsmen to go do something that I'm not willing to do myself. I'd rather live the rest of life knowing that when the time came to get the call like that and step up, I did."

President of El Salvador, U.S. Ambassador Tour Comfort

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jeff Hall, USNS
Comfort Public Affairs

ACAJUTLA, El Salvador - The hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) hosted President Elias Antonio Saca of El Salvador along with other El Salvadoran officials July 27 during Comfort's visit to Acajutla.

Joining Saca for a tour of Comfort was U.S. Ambassador Charles L. Glazer. The two spent time viewing the ship's facilities and speaking with crew members and patients.

"We were honored to have President Saca aboard during our visit to El Salvador," said Capt. Bob Kapcio, Comfort's mission commander. "This was a great opportunity to show him our commitment to El Salvador and its people and to give him a view of our mission here. We also

thanked him for El Salvador's support for the global efforts to combat terrorism."

Following the tour aboard Comfort, Saca and other top El Salvadoran officials, along with Comfort leadership, visited Comfort's mission site at Unidad de Salud in Acajutla for a tour of the medical services being provided. Comfort is also providing assistance at Centro Escolar Caseria Costa Brava, Centro Escolar Delfina Rivas, Hospital Sonsonate and Casa Comunal.

Joint and international forces, along with Military Sealift Command civilian mariners and volunteers from Project Hope, are conducting humanitarian assistance missions at the five sites during the ship's six days in El Salvador.



DA NANG, Vietnam – Lt. Kevin Haveman, with 3rd Medical Battalion, cleans teeth with a dental assistant from the East Meets West Dental Program at Nai Hiem Dong Medical Station July 24. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Bryan M. Ilyankoff

NC Recruiting continued...

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tice nursing, nursing anesthesia, maternal-infant nursing, and operational nursing. We have nurses that come into the NC with already having these specialties or we can send a NC nurse to school to acquire education for a specific specialty through our DUINS (duty under instruction) program. The two specialties that are high demand right now are nurse anesthesia and critical care," he said.

Recruiting for Navy nurses is an ongoing, active and productive process. According to Wilson, there are 26 recruiting districts across the U.S. Most of the districts have a NC officer who is actively recruiting. These NC officers who are recruiting are responsible for going to conventions and job fairs, they are responsible to go all of the different schools in their district and meeting with the deans, putting on presentations, doing luncheons – all of this is part of the bag-carrying NC recruiters responsibilities and that is how the word gets out. There are local and national advertising campaigns. Mail outs that go out to all nursing students who are attending accredited nursing schools throughout the U.S. with local contact in-

formation. Rear Admiral Christine Bruzek-Kohler, the Director of the Nurse Corps, sends out a letter with her signature to all of the deans of these schools each year. CNRC sponsors five national conventions per year, which Wilson usually attends along with a NC officer recruiter representative from that local area. All of the nurses associations including the National Hispanic Nurses Association, African American Nurses Association, National Student Nurses Association, receive visits from CNRC and NC recruiters at their conventions as well. There are also advertisements in major professional journals as well.

"Our nurses not only come in through recruiting programs. We have pipeline programs, STA-21 (Seaman to Admiral Program, ROTC, to name a few, so we have other avenues to bring people into the NC," he added.

Certain financial benefits are also available to nurses who are considering a commission in the Navy. "We have a 15-thousand sign on bonus for three year active duty commitment. There is a 25-thousand bonus for a four year active duty commitment. We hold

from 20 to 25 seats each year for loan repayment and we can pay up to 32-thousand in loans and a 15-thousand bonus with that for a five year active duty commitment," said Wilson. "Students who are in their junior and senior years in the Nurse Candidate Program can receive 1-thousand a month and a 10-thousand bonus, so they can get up to 34-thousand to go to school while they are in school and they are commissioned when they graduate."

There are certain basic requirements that a nurse must meet in order to receive a NC commission. "You must be a college graduate. The maximum age to enter is 42 years old, but we can grant age waivers. Average age of joining is 21. Plus, you must meet the already established requirements established by the Navy such as physical requirements," said Wilson.

Nurses who are interested in learning more on being a Navy Nurse Corps officer can visit www.navy.com, click the officer programs and view the Navy Nurse Corps section of the site. They can also contact their local recruiting district to obtain more information.



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Bug Doctor continued...

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for ticks and parasites on each another.

"When folks don't get sick, they can do their mission, and the mission can be completed successfully," he said. "When people get sick with malaria, or dengue fever..., they're out of commission for days or weeks, and that hurts the mission."

Hanley said the most important part of his job is to keep troops safe, and that he takes it very seriously.

"The best part of my job is that I can take science and apply it to everyday life," he said. "When I go home, I feel good because I know that we're doing everything we can. We're teaching, we're preventing, and we're keeping people safe, and that's an exciting thing."